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10-8-2

September 23, 2010

Ms. Mary Nichols
Chairman
Air Resources Board
Clerk of the Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento
California 95814

Dear Chairman Nichols,

I am writing to express the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (LACMTA) support for the Air Resources Board draft greenhouse gas reduction targets for Southern California. Our support reflects the agency's commitment to work in partnership with SCAG, subregional agencies and cities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and to do our best to achieve ambitious reduction targets.

The LACMTA has taken significant steps to support the implementation of SB 375 and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles, including:

- Participation by Director Katz and I in the SB 375 Regional Target Advisory Committee to provide feedback to the ARB on the methodology and process for establishing greenhouse gas reduction targets,
- Hosting a Sustainability Summit and a series of roundtable conversations in 2009/2010 to share strategies and develop partnerships to work toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation,
- Participation in workshops hosted by SCAG and the subregions to provide information on the transportation network and to discuss the LACMTA's role in developing and implementing Sustainable Communities Strategies,
- Joint-facilitation with SCAG of a SB 375 Working Group to bring together the planning and public works directors from Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles, our subregional agency directors, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District to support SCAG in developing and implementing the Sustainable Communities Strategy in Los Angeles County,

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- Leading a countywide effort to submit an application for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program to support sustainability planning in transportation corridors, and
- Integrating consideration of sustainability and coordinated land-use and transportation planning into the evaluation criteria for the LACMTA's Call for Projects.

In addition to these efforts that specifically support SB 375, the agency's Joint Development Program and implementation of the Measure R program will yield a tremendous greenhouse gas reduction benefit in Los Angeles County and across the Southern California region.


To recognize and acknowledge the agency's commitment to continue working toward the goals of SB 375, the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee approved staff's recommendation to support the ARB's draft greenhouse gas reduction targets. In making this recommendation, the Committee recognized that target setting is imprecise and that the tools and strategies for modeling and achieving greenhouse gas reductions are still evolving. They also acknowledged that there are uncertainties and factors beyond the control of our agency and region that will significantly impact the region's ability to achieve these targets. However, target setting is an important first step in implementing SB 375 and, as an agency, we will do our best to help Los Angeles County be a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We trust that the ARB targets will be adjusted, if appropriate, overtime as we learn more about what truly is "ambitious, yet achievable." We've asked our Board to consider this recommendation with the understanding that targets, as intended by the legislation, will be used to motivate collaboration and innovation and not penalize regions who aim high but may fall short of the goal. I also want to reemphasize the comments I made at the Regional Target Advisory Committee meetings. Specifically, to achieve the goals of SB 375, we need the state to identify and provide a stable source of transit funding.

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We look forward to working in partnership with the state, region, subregions and cities within Los Angeles County to achieve the goals of SB 375 and create a more sustainable transportation system.

Sincerely,


Arthur T. Leahy
Chief Executive Officer

